DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 424 318 UD 032 581

TITLE	City Views on Drug Abuse: A Washington, DC Survey.
INSTITUTION	Hart (Peter D.) Research Associates, Inc., Washington, DC.; Drug Strategies, Washington, DC.
SPONS AGENCY	Fannie Mae Foundation, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	1998-08-00
NOTE	33p.; Funding also provided by the Bonderman Family Foundation.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research (143) -- Tests/Questionnaires (160)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adults; Crime; *Drug Abuse; Elementary Secondary Education; *Public Opinion; Public Policy; Public Schools; Racial Differences; Surveys; Tables (Data); *Urban Problems; Urban Youth
IDENTIFIERS	*District of Columbia

ABSTRACT

A telephone survey was done of a representative sample of 801 adults in the District of Columbia. The survey explored District residents' attitudes about the current situation in the city and in their neighborhoods, with specific emphasis on their attitudes toward drug abuse and drug policy in the District of Columbia. The margin of error for the survey is 3.5%. In July, a national survey of 1,002 adults was conducted to gauge perceptions of the District of Columbia and its residents among all Americans. The margin of error for that survey is 3.2%. Only 25% of District residents are very or fairly satisfied with the way things are going, and fully one-third expect to move out of the District within the next 5 years. Sixty-one percent of respondents thought that the District had a negative image elsewhere in the country. Drugs are a direct personal concern of many District residents, 55% of whom have seen or heard about drugs being sold in their own neighborhoods. Many (46%) believe that controlling drug dealing would be one of the most effective ways to improve the overall situation of the city. Sixty-three percent said that the current level of funding is not adequate, and 46% would be willing to pay higher taxes (16%) or shift funds from other programs (30%) to deal with the drug problem. Willingness to pay higher taxes decreases as income declines. Overall, respondents had doubts about the effectiveness of drug treatment programs, but they favored them over criminal justice alternatives. Nationally, the image of the city was more positive than the perception of its citizens, but Americans in general are not as optimistic about the future of the city as its residents are. Differences are also apparent between black and white residents of the District, with whites more likely to be concerned about the public schools. Improving education was a high priority for District residents; 42% overall selected improving public schools as a top priority. Although education is the main concern of District residents, reducing crime is a major concern that is linked to drug issues. The survey and response information are included. (Contains 11 graphs and 7 tables.) (SLD)

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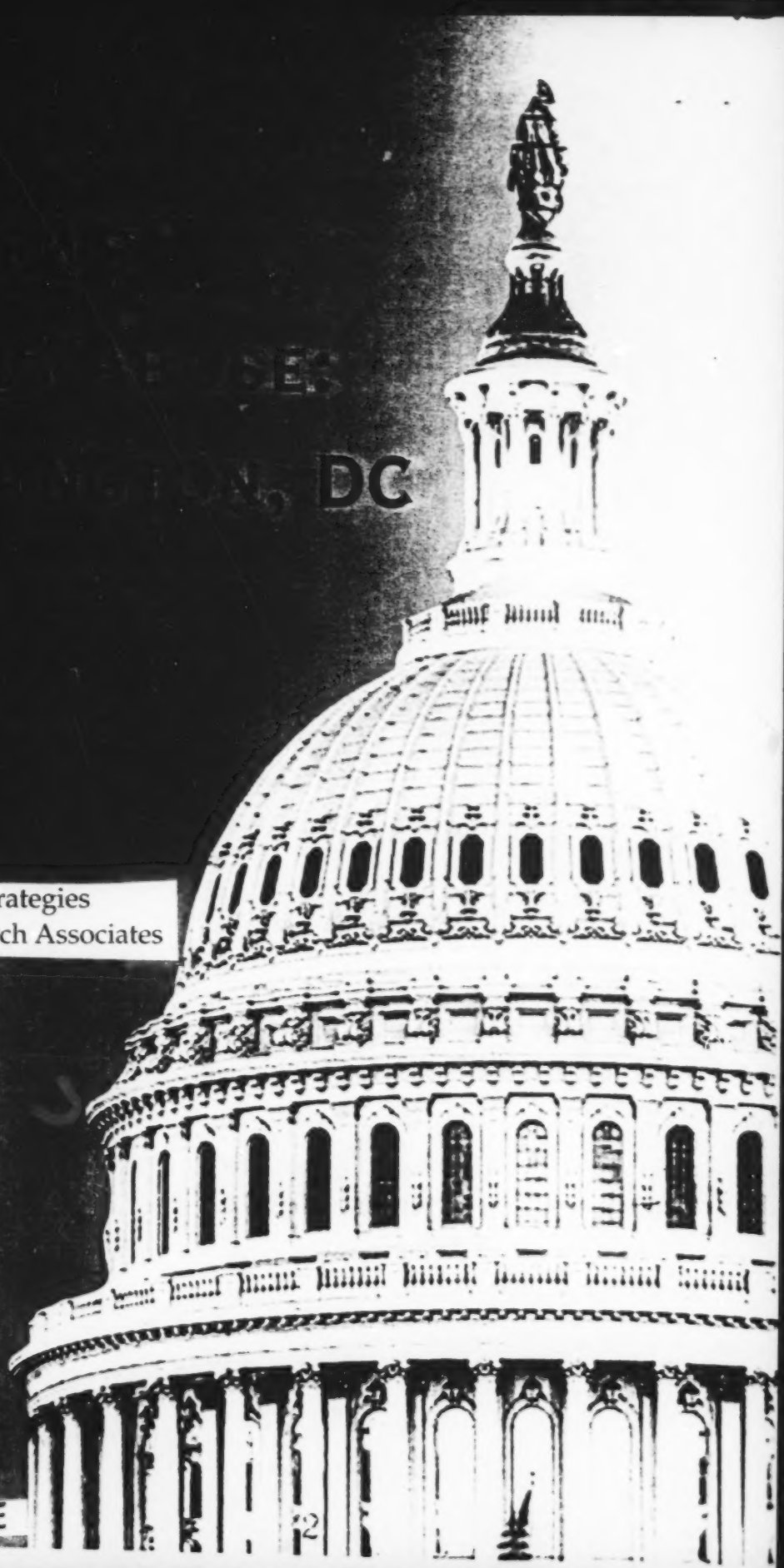

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by Peter D. Hart Research Associates

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This survey was made possible by grants from
the Bonderman Family Foundation
and the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Drug Strategies is supported by grants from:

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Dedication

This report is dedicated to Frederick Hartwig, Ph.D., a gifted colleague and good friend, committed to finding more effective approaches to the nation's drug problems. Dr. Hartwig was Senior Vice President of Peter D. Hart Research Associates until his death in 1997.

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METHODOLOGY

Between June 8 and 10, 1998, Peter D. Hart Research Associates conducted a telephone survey among a representative sample of 801 adults in the District of Columbia. The survey explored District residents' attitudes about the current situation in the city and in their neighborhoods, with specific emphasis on their attitudes about drug abuse and drug policy in the District of Columbia. The margin of error for the survey is (3.5%).

In addition, between July 7 and 12, 1998, Hart Research conducted a national survey among 1,002 adults to gauge perceptions of the District of Columbia and its image among all Americans. The margin of error for this survey is (3.2%).

OVERVIEW

A little more than 200 years ago, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant presented President George Washington with his plan for a capital city on the Potomac River. It was a grand plan for a small country of three million people scattered along the Atlantic coast and just starting to move inland beyond the first mountains. L'Enfant drew on his knowledge of the great capitals and palaces of Europe, made creative use of the terrain of the site that had been selected by Washington himself, and created new urban forms to be "magnificent enough to grace a great nation." He designed streets 100 feet wide, avenues 160 feet wide, and a "Grand Avenue, 400 feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered with gardens"—the Mall.

Today, the United States is undeniably the greatest nation in the world—an economic giant, a vibrant center of arts and letters, a representative democracy with traditions of tolerance and respect for law deeply imbedded in the hearts of 270 million people drawn from all over the world. L'Enfant's plan, sometimes neglected, then triumphantly adapted, provides a fit setting for government and a monument to the nation's strengths. The city itself, however, has deep troubles. As the capital area's population has surged toward four million, Washington, DC, has become just a part of a large metropolitan area, and much of it is in distress: in the 1990s the District of Columbia's population has fallen by 13%.

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Today, the population of Washington, D.C. is five hundred and thirty thousand. And when viewed from a much narrower lens than that which Major L'Enfant had some two centuries ago, we begin to see both the hope and the peril facing this great capital city. In this survey conducted among a cross section of 801 adults in Washington, DC, we find that the picture that emerges is one in which residents are dissatisfied with the District today, and at the heart of the problem is the challenge of dealing with the drug problem.

The following is the not-very-flattering picture that DC residents paint of their city in 1998:

- ❖ Only 25% are very or fairly satisfied with the ways things are going;
- ❖ Fully one-third of residents think that they will move out of DC within the next five years; and
- ❖ Only one-third of the city's population thinks that the District's image is positive elsewhere in the nation, while 61% say it is negative.

When you ask District residents what is wrong in the city, the problem is that the basics—particularly education and safety—are not being dealt with well, and lurking underneath these issues is the problem of drugs. Here we see that both as a primary cause and a contributing cause, drugs are at the heart of the problems facing Washington, DC. Three important points emerge from this survey about attitudes toward drug use.

Drugs are not just of abstract concern but of direct personal experience to a very large number of District residents in every neighborhood, and have changed the way people live their lives.

- 55% have seen or heard about drugs being sold in their neighborhood.
- 36% have changed the way their family lives because of drug sellers and users.

Residents believe that getting drug abuse and drug dealing under control would do more to improve the District than anything else. There is a recognition that the funding here is not adequate, and there is a willingness to spend more. By three and a half to one, the public would devote more attention and funds to education, prevention, and treatment rather than to law enforcement.

- 46% say that controlling drug dealing would be one of the two most effective ways to improve the overall situation in the District.
- 63% say that the current level of funding is inadequate, and 46% would be willing either to pay higher taxes (16%) or to shift funding (30%) to deal with the drug problem.

The public's willingness to tackle the issue of drugs in new and unique ways suggests that the old approaches are not working.

Finally, for all that is wrong, this is a city that seems willing to look for new paths, and a city that is willing to believe in itself again. When residents of the District of Columbia are asked to think about their city's future, 75% say they are

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very or somewhat optimistic. This optimism spreads from the affluent Northwest to the poor Southeast neighborhoods. There is a sense that parents are taking greater responsibility for educating the next generation about addiction and the need to spend more money to deal with the problem.

- By three and a half to one, the public would devote more attention and funds to education, prevention, and treatment rather than to law enforcement.
- By two to one, the public favors medical treatment over arrest and prosecution to deal with people who use illegal drugs.
- 68% believe that publicly funded, court-supervised drug treatment programs would be effective in helping to curb drug abuse and related problems.

Nearly 200 years ago, President John Adams moved into the White House that stood almost alone on L'Enfant's 160-foot-wide Pennsylvania Avenue, and Congress began meeting in the small buildings that would be the nucleus of the Capitol still to be built on the site L'Enfant picked on Jenkins Hill. As a capital and as a city, Washington, DC, has made immense progress and overcome great problems in the two centuries since. Today, the citizens of Washington know that they are confronted by grave problems, but they also believe that they are on the brink of a great opportunity. This report helps us understand what they believe those problems are and how they should be addressed, and is intended to help those in both the public and private sectors, those in positions of responsibility, and those determined to take responsibility for what is happening in their neighborhoods, to solve the problems and make this city the shining capital that Washington and L'Enfant hoped it would be.

THE CURRENT MOOD AMONG DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENTS

District residents express a low level of satisfaction with the current situation in the city, but there is great optimism that conditions will improve in the near future. The current mood among District residents is largely negative: just one in four adults are very (5%) or fairly (20%) satisfied with the way things are going in the city these days, while fully 71% are just somewhat (30%) or not really (41%) satisfied. This sentiment is generally constant across the eight wards; in fact, majorities of all groups of DC residents are not particularly satisfied with the state of affairs in the city. Perhaps most notable is that, despite the great disparity between the opinions and attitudes of African-Americans' and whites' and between those of upper-income and lower-income residents on many other issues, there is no difference in perceptions by race or income on this measure.

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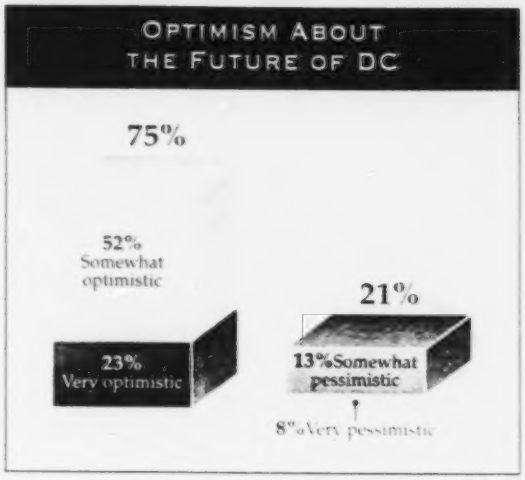
Residents do not perceive a significant downward trend in the District's situation over the past five years, but neither is there a sense that things have improved. While a slightly larger proportion of adults feel that, compared to five years ago, DC is a better place to live today (26%) than feel that it is a worse place to live (20%), the plurality of residents (43%) think that it is about the same today as it was then. The most upbeat adults are men and members of upper-income households. African-Americans (22% worse place to live) are slightly more negative than are whites (13%) about the city's progress over the past five years, and this divergence is more pronounced between younger adults: African-Americans under age 44 (22% worse place to live) are more than twice as likely as are whites in the same age group (9%) to describe DC as a worse place to live today.

Parents with children in the city's public schools are the most likely to feel that DC is a worse place to live today (30%), and they are the single most dissatisfied group of residents when it comes to the current situation in the city—fully 81% say they are just somewhat or not really satisfied with the way things are going in the city these days. (These public school parents tend to be African-Americans, members of lower-income households, and residents of wards 5, 6, 7, and 8.)

Despite residents' current malcontentedness, they are very upbeat about the city's outlook. In fact, fully three in four adults feel optimistic about DC's future, while only 21% are pessimistic. Nonetheless, it is notable that this optimism lacks great intensity, as just 23% of adults are very optimistic and 52% are somewhat optimistic. Solid majorities of all groups of residents offer a positive forecast, with little difference by age, income, or quadrant of the city. Despite their similar feelings about the current state of affairs, African-Americans (78% optimistic) are slightly more upbeat about what lies ahead for DC than are whites (69%).



While a majority of nearly six in ten residents (59%) think that they will still live in DC in five years, it is notable that fully one-third say they plan on moving either to the Maryland or Virginia suburbs (15%) or out of the region altogether (18%). Those most committed to staying in the DC city limits are residents age 50 and over, those who have lived in DC for at least 20 years, and African-Americans—especially women and those over age 45 and over. On the other hand, the residents most likely to relocate elsewhere are young people age 18 to 34 and newer residents.

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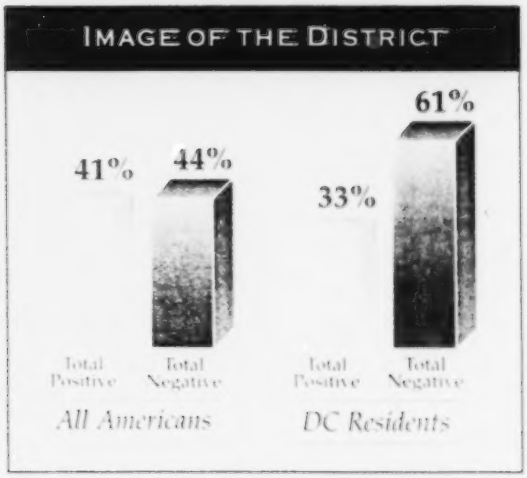
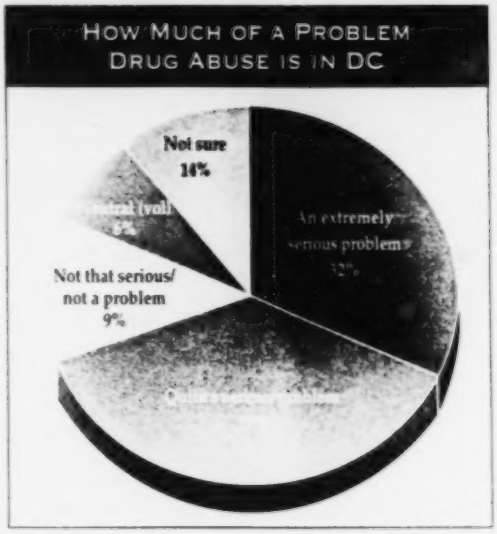
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S IMAGE

While Washington's image nationally is more positive than its residents surmise it to be, Americans do not exude the same sense of optimism about the city's future as its own residents do. While six in ten (61%) DC residents think that their city's image is negative and 33% see it as positive, Americans overall are, in fact, fairly evenly divided in their feelings toward the nation's capital: 41% have a positive impression and 44% feel negative. Nonetheless, their feelings toward DC are less positive than are their feelings toward the two other cities tested: Houston (50% positive, 19% negative)



and New York City (44% positive, 39% negative). The more notable differences in opinions about the District of Columbia are revealed by respondents' sense of optimism about the future of the District. Americans overall (45% optimistic, 39% pessimistic) are much less optimistic about the city's future than are its own residents (75% optimistic, 21% pessimistic). Some other findings further illuminate Americans' lukewarm impressions of Washington, DC:



- Nearly four in ten (39%) Americans say their image of the District has gotten worse over the past five years, while only 15% say their impression has gotten better.

- A majority of Americans say they probably (49%) or definitely (3%) would not consider accepting an attractive job offer in Washington, DC, if it meant that they would have to live within the city limits.

Drug abuse in the District contributes to the city's image across the country, and Americans believe that it is a critical problem for DC. Americans have a tough time selecting the one problem that they feel hurts DC's image the most, as 30% volunteer that all of the five problems tested hurt the city's image equally. Drug abuse and drug-related crime (18%), along with poor local government and leadership (18%) rank as detracting the most from the city's image, and crime and safety problems (17%) come in a close second. Racial issues and tensions (7%) and transportation and traffic problems (2%) are seen as much less problematic for DC.

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THE ONE OR TWO MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA					
		By Race		*By Income*	
	% All Adults	% African Americans	% Whites	Below $50,000	More Than $50,000
Improving public schools	42	38	53	39	55
Reducing crime	28	24	35	28	31
Improving basic city services	18	11	35	15	26
Reducing drug abuse	18	21	11	19	11
Reducing poverty and unemployment	18	18	15	19	16
Returning power to local elected officials	14	18	9	15	16
Lowering taxes	8	6	12	8	9

Drug abuse is seen as a serious and present problem in Washington, DC, compared to other major cities, as more than seven in ten Americans believe that it is an extremely or quite a serious problem. Not surprisingly, Americans who perceive the problem of drugs in Washington to be serious are more likely to have a negative image of the city and to be pessimistic about its future.

RESIDENTS' ISSUE AGENDA AND THE PROBLEM OF DRUGS IN DC

Residents have a broad issue agenda for the District, placing the greatest importance on improving education and reducing crime. Drug abuse ranks as a second-tier concern overall, but survey findings reveal notable differences in residents' priorities on the drug issue. Education and crime are Washingtonians' top-of-mind concerns, as 30% and 26% of residents, respectively, volunteer these as important DC issues that they personally would like to see addressed. The other issues that are mentioned most often are cleaning the city and fixing the roads and potholes (18%), the problem of drugs (11%), and better services, such as trash collection (9%).

The importance of improving education is more markedly illustrated when residents select from a list the top one or two priorities that they feel are the most important for the District of Columbia. With fully 42% of adults selecting improving public schools as one of the top priorities for DC, education is clearly the number-one concern among residents (this parallels the degree of concern about education throughout the country). In fact, DC residents are much more likely to choose education as their main concern as they are to select reducing crime (28%). Yet, crime is a real concern for adults in DC, and later survey findings reveal that residents' concern about drugs is associated with their worry about crime.

As the table above reveals, there are some major differences in the issue agendas of African-American and white residents of DC. Improving public schools and reducing crime are the top concerns for both groups, but otherwise their concerns are largely divergent. First of all, whites register a significantly higher level of concern about public schools than do African-Americans, and whites are also more concerned about crime. Particularly notable is the fact that, by a margin of more than three to one, whites (35%) place greater importance on improving basic city services than do African-Americans (11%).

Concern about drugs runs deeper among African-Americans, who are twice as likely as are whites to select reducing drug abuse as a priority for the city; African-American women (24%) and older African-Americans (23%) place particular emphasis on this issue.

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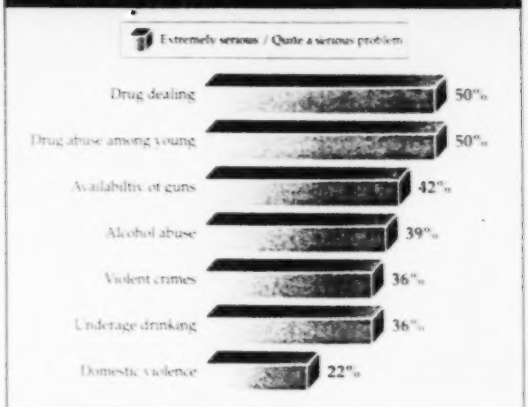
With more than twice as many whites (48%) as blacks (20%) reporting a household income above $50,000, it follows that variations in attitudes and priorities by race track differences in perceptions by income level. In general, lower-income residents and African-Americans exhibit similar degrees of concern about and attitudes toward drugs, while whites and more afluent residents tend to have corresponding perspectives. When it comes to priorities for DC, residents with a household income of more than $50,000 are more concerned about public schools than are those with a household income below $50,000, but the variations in the importance placed on reducing crime and improving basic city services are not as conspicuous by income as they are by race.

Although concern about drugs does not rank at the top of residents' issue agenda, adults —especially African-Americans and residents in lower-income households—recognize that illegal drugs pose an undeniable threat to their neighborhoods. They believe that drug dealing and drug abuse among youth are more serious problems than is either the availability of guns or the occurrence of violent crimes. When presented with a list of issues that may or may not be facing their neighborhood, half of adults rate drug dealing as an extremely or quite a serious problem, with the same proportion expressing a similar level of concern about drug abuse among youth in their neighborhood. Their other top-tier concern is the availability of guns (42%), and interestingly, violent crimes, such as assault and homicide, are viewed as less pervasive. Adults are least worried about domestic violence in their neighborhood, while alcohol abuse, violent crimes, and underage drinking are mid-level concerns.

HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM SELECTED ISSUES ARE FOR RESIDENTS' NEIGHBORHOODS



LEVEL OF SAFETY IN NEIGHBORHOOD

Despite concern about crime in the District of Columbia, residents generally feel safe in their own neighborhood. In fact, nearly seven in ten adults say they feel very (36%) or fairly (32%) safe in their neighborhood, while fewer than one in three feel only somewhat safe (23%) or not safe at all (9%). Majorities of all subgroups feel that their neighborhood is safe, but the most distinct differences are apparent by ward and quadrant. Residents of wards 2 and 3—where residents report the highest income level and the white population is largest—feel the most secure, while residents of the mostly African-American wards of 1, 6, 7, and 8 feel the least confident about their safety.

	ALL RESIDENTS	WARD 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MORE SAFE	68%	58%	84%	85%	74%	70%	59%	62%	54%
LESS SAFE	32%	42%	16%	15%	26%	30%	41%	37%	46%

Perhaps most indicative of the divergent priorities between African-Americans and whites are their differing degrees of concern about problems in their neighborhood, which also are reflected by ward, quadrant, and income level. Specifically, African-Americans perceive a much greater threat from drug dealing and drug abuse in their neighborhood than do whites.

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Fully 57% of African-Americans feel that drug dealing is an extremely serious or quite a serious problem in their neighborhood, compared to 34% of whites who feel this way, just as 57% of African-Americans are similarly concerned about drug abuse among youth, compared to 36% of whites. Similarly, residents with a household income below $50,000 a year are much more concerned about drug abuse (56% extremely/quite a serious problem) and drug dealing (56%) than are those in households with higher income levels (39% drug abuse, 36% drug dealing).

Adults who reside in Southeast and those with a household income below $35,000 exhibit more concern about drug dealing and drug abuse among youth than do residents in Northwest or Northeast or members of upper-income households. Furthermore, residents in wards 1, 6, 7, and 8 are the most likely to feel that both of these drug issues are serious problems for their area, with residents in Ward 8 being the single most likely of all subgroups to recognize drug abuse among youth as an extremely serious or quite a serious problem for their neighborhood (71%).

Parents of children age 18 or under also are especially worried about drug dealing (52%) and drug abuse among youth (57%), and this concern is even more acute among parents of public school children in DC (56% drug dealing, 63% drug abuse among youth).

While drug dealing and drug abuse among youth are rated as equally problematic in residents' neighborhoods, the plurality of adults (46%) feel that reducing drug dealing would be the most effective way to improve the overall situation in DC. Washingtonians feel that the best way to ameliorate the current situation in the city is to focus on four main areas—drug dealing, the availability of guns, drug abuse among youth, and violent crimes—with the most emphasis on reducing drug dealing in DC. Alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and underage drinking are not seen as having as intense an impact on the District.

As the accompanying table shows, African-Americans place much of the blame for the situation in DC on the problems of drug dealing and, to a lesser extent, drug abuse among youth. They believe that addressing these problems will do the most to help alleviate the current state of affairs. On the other hand, whites are much more likely to feel that dealing with the availability of guns and violent crimes would do the most to improve current conditions.

Interestingly, residents in upper-income household believe that addressing the problems of drug

PROPORTION OF RESIDENTS WHO SAY SELECTED ISSUES EXTREMELY OR QUITE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD

	ALL RESIDENTS	WARD 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Drug dealing	50%	64%	41%	15%	47%	47%	61%	55%	62%
Drug abuse among youth	50%	52%	42%	22%	46%	45%	62%	55%	71%
Availability of guns	42%	46%	30%	24%	33%	38%	56%	41%	60%
Alcohol abuse	39%	51%	34%	21%	34%	38%	47%	35%	50%
Violent crimes	36%	41%	23%	15%	38%	32%	50%	34%	51%
Underage drinking	36%	44%	27%	31%	30%	37%	34%	30%	51%
Domestic Violence	22%	26%	19%	8%	17%	19%	24%	21%	37%

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MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL SITUATION IN DC

	% All Adults	% African Americans	% Whites
Reduce drug dealing	46	50	38
Reducing availability of guns	36	32	50
Reduce drug abuse among youth	33	35	28
Reducing violent crimes	31	27	44
Reducing alcohol abuse	9	9	9
Reduce domestic violence	6	5	5
Reduce underage drinking	4	4	3

dealing (48%) and the availability of guns (47%) will be equally effective, with smaller proportions who believe that the most improvement can be made by dealing with violent crimes (35%) and reducing drug abuse among youth (32%). Lower-income residents express views similar to those of blacks, with a plurality (47%) who think reducing drug dealing would do the most to improve the situation in the District, followed by reducing drug abuse among youth (35%), the availability of guns (34%), and violent crimes (29%).

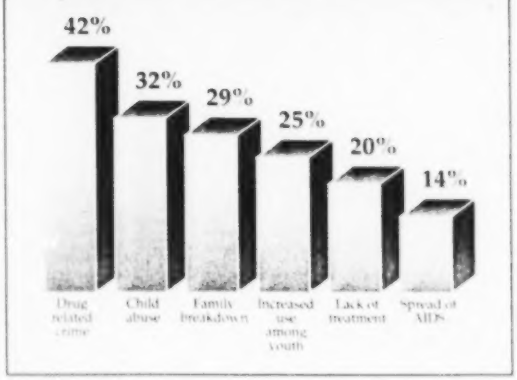
The public recognizes the potential for many harmful effects stemming from illegal drugs, focusing the most concern on the link between illegal drugs and crime. As the adjacent table reveals, more than four in ten (42%) adults select drug-related crime as their first or second biggest concern about illegal drugs. Child abuse and neglect, family breakdown due to drug abuse, and increased drug use among youth form the second tier of concerns, and lack of available treatment for drug users and the spread of AIDS through contaminated needles are at the bottom of the list.

African-Americans and whites exhibit basically the same levels of concern about the possible effects of drugs, except when it comes to the top concern: crime. Fully 56% of whites select drug-related crime as their first or second biggest concern about drugs, compared to 36% of African-Americans, with younger whites under age 45 and white men exhibiting the highest level of concern. African-Americans, who are more likely to have felt the impact of drugs in their neighborhoods (as discussed in detail below), tend to be more equally concerned about each of the six potential effects.

Drugs and alcohol have had real and tangible effects on the lives of many DC residents and their neighborhoods; indeed, one reason why African-Americans exhibit a greater degree of concern about drug-related issues than do whites may be because the former group has been more acutely affected.

- More than one-third (36%) of adults say that problems caused by drug sellers and users in

ONE OR TWO BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT ILLEGAL DRUGS



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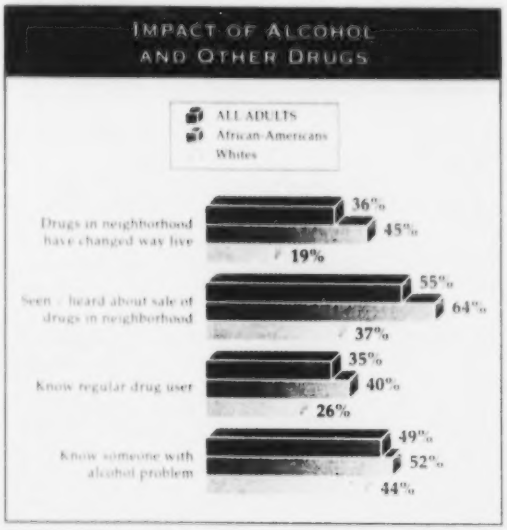
their neighborhood have changed the way they or their family lives, and among African-Americans this number increases to 45%. Drugs have touched the lives of residents in Ward 8 the most, but many adults in other mostly African-American wards (5, 6, and 7) also report having changed their daily life because of the drug problem. Residents of Ward 3, which is 81% white, have been the least affected.

❖ Even more alarming is the fact that the majority (55%) of DC residents say they have seen or heard about drugs being sold in their own neighborhoods. Once again, African Americans (64%)—especially men (73%)—are much more likely to feel affected by drugs in their neighborhoods than are whites (37%). Other groups most likely to know about the sale of drugs in their areas are public school parents, residents in Southeast and Northeast, and members of low-income households. At least half of residents in all wards except 2 and 3 have heard about drugs being sold in their neighborhoods.

Interestingly, nearly half (46%) of adults who have seen or heard about drugs being sold in their neighborhoods say that problems caused by drug users and sellers have not changed the way they or their family live. This group comprises one in four residents in the District overall.

❖ Drug use is something that has touched the lives of many Washingtonians: 35% of adults say they know someone—a relative, a close friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker—who regularly uses drugs. African-Americans, as well as residents in lower-income households, are the most affected, with four in ten of each group saying that they know a regular drug user. While whites and members of upper-income households are less likely to know someone in this position, still more than one in four do (26% of whites; 28% of residents with a household income of more than $50,000). Nonetheless, age is more of a factor than is race or income when it comes to knowing a drug user: while 48% of 18-to 34-year-olds and 44% of 35- to 49-year olds know a regular drug user, this figure drops to 27% among 50- to 64-year-olds and just 14% among seniors. Thus, it is not surprising that African-Americans under age 45 are the group most likely to know someone who is a regular drug user.



❖ Alcohol abuse is a more pervasive problem and one that affects DC residents more equally. Nearly half (49%) of adults know someone with an alcohol problem, and whites (44%) are almost as likely as are African-Americans (52%) to have a relative, close friend, neighbor,

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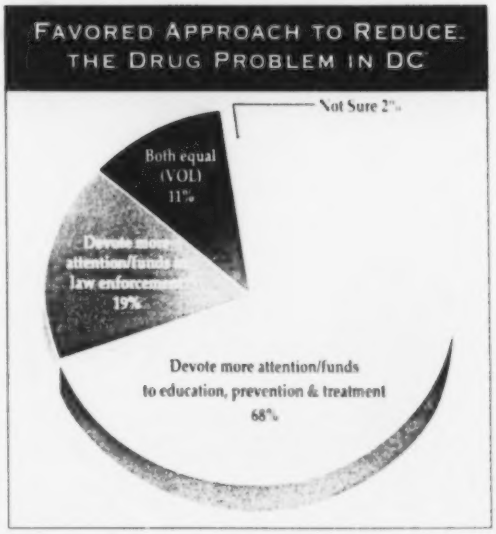
or co-worker in this situation. While this problem tends to exist more consistently across the board and is equally pervasive among members of both upper-income and less affluent households, those residents most likely to have had first-hand experience with someone who has an alcohol problem tend to be middle-aged.

SUPPORT FOR APPROACHES TO REDUCE THE PROBLEMS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

When it comes to where best to intensify the focus of anti-drug efforts in the District, the public strongly supports dedicating more funds and attention to education, prevention, and treatment, rather than law enforcement. Nearly seven in ten (68%) adults would like to see more funds and attention devoted to the three principal elements of education, prevention, and treatment, whereas fewer than one in five (19%) would opt for concentrating more on law enforcement. Eleven percent of residents volunteer that they would like to see more attention and funds directed toward both approaches equally.

Support for education, prevention, and treatment spans all segments of the city's population, with at least three in five adults in nearly every group favoring this approach.

Further evidence of the lack of support for an expanded law enforcement approach is that among four specific funding approaches for reducing drug abuse and its related problems


FAVORED APPROACH TO REDUCE THE DRUG PROBLEM IN DC
Not Sure 2%
Both equal (VOL) 11%
19%
Devote more attention/funds to education, prevention & treatment 68%

tested in the survey, the criminal justice option falls at the bottom of the list. A mere 6% of adults think that, if the government of the District of Columbia were to devote more funds to the anti-drug effort, the funding should go toward building and staffing more jails. By contrast, residents give the strongest backing to the preventive effort of devoting more funds toward expanding job-training services (40%). Expanding treatment programs ranks second (favored by three in ten adults), and another preventive option—improving recreation facilities and programs—ranks third.

In thinking about ways to reduce drug use among school-aged youth, in particular, the public believes that the best bet would be to incorporate drug-prevention education into the regular curriculum as part of personal health classes: 39% of adults say this approach would be the most effective way to reduce drug use among school-aged youth. There is also some solid support for expanding after-school programs, as one in four residents favor this method more than the other four tested. Less weight is given to

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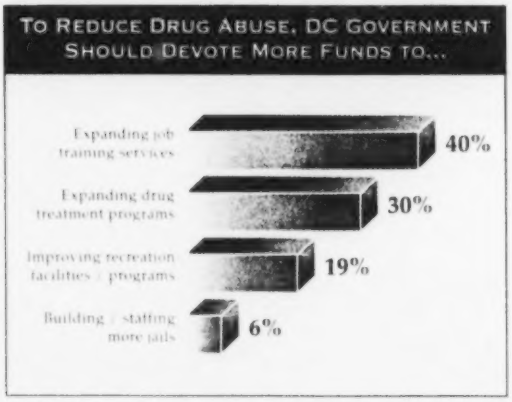

increasing law enforcement in and around schools (17%), and residents are least likely to think that increasing teachers' prevention training will have a major impact on curtailing drug use among youth.

Residents perceive great potential for success with some new and alternative methods for addressing the problems of drugs and alcohol in the District. Among the approaches tested, residents believe that the most effective ways to help curb drug abuse and related problems in DC are to focus on prevention rather than punishment. As the table below reveals, nearly two-thirds of adults (65%) think that focusing on the prevention of drug use among youth by expanding after-school and summer recreation programs would be very or fairly effective. Support for this approach spans all major demographic groups—residents without children at home are just as likely as are parents with kids to think that it would be effectual. Community policing programs also are seen as capable of making a real difference, with 61% of residents rating them as very effective. While support for a program to educate landlords in publicly assisted housing on how to prevent drug dealing is not as high, it still receives a solid rating from 43% of adults; yet, support for this program varies, with African-Americans, members of lower-income households, and residents in Northeast and Southeast believing that it would have the greatest efficacy.

Treatment also is seen as a viable approach to helping curb drug abuse with the potential for real results, as nearly half (49%) of residents believe that it would be very effective. Support is high among all segments of the population, with African-Americans, women, public school parents, and members of lower-income households the most convinced of its effectiveness.

The tough punishment approach of mandatory minimum prison sentencing for the possession and sale of drugs is seen as the least effective of the five anti-drug approaches tested, with barely one-third (34%) of adults giving it the most positive ratings. Interestingly, not only are men more supportive of this method than are women, but African-Americans and lower-income residents back it more than do whites and upper-

PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW APPROACHES TO HELP CURB DRUG ABUSE AND RELATED PROBLEMS

	VERY EFFECTIVE
Expanding after-school and summer recreation programs for youth	65%
Adopting "community policing" programs that assign police officers to local neighborhoods to work with residents to prevent crime	61%
Expanding publicly funded drug treatment capacity to ensure that all people who are arrested and test positive for drugs will immediately enter court-supervised treatment programs	49%
Educating landlords in publicly assisted housing on how to prevent drug dealing on their property	43%
Requiring mandatory minimum prison sentences for the possession and sale of illegal drugs	34%

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income residents. In fact, the survey findings reveal that African-Americans and lower-income residents think that each of the five approaches would be more effective than do whites and wealthier Washingtonians.

PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF SELECTED NEW APPROACHES TO HELP CURB ALCOHOL ABUSE AND RELATED PROBLEMS

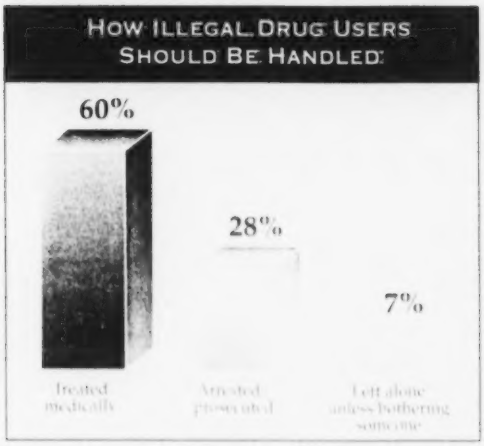
	VERY EFFECTIVE	
	% All Adults	% Public School Parents
Strengthening enforcement against alcohol sales to minors	55	71
Banning advertisments for alcohol products in areas accessible to youth	34	45
Raising the alcohol excise tax to discourage underage drinking and enhance funding for substance abuse treatment programs	34	43
Lowering the legal blood alcohol concentration limit for driving a motor vehicle from 0.1 to 0.08	30	39

Among the approaches to help curb alcohol abuse and its related problems, strengthening enforcement against alcohol sales to minors ranks highest among DC residents (55% believe that it would be very effective). Overall, however, residents are less confident about the effectiveness of other approaches to help curb alcohol abuse tested in the survey, with 34% of adults saying that banning alcohol advertisements in areas accessible to youth would be very effective and the same proportion believing that raising alcohol excise taxes to discourage underage drinking would be very effective. Only three in ten think that lowering the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration level would be very effective.

However, parents of school-age children—and parents of public school children in particular—are quite positive about approaches meant to discourage underage drinking. As the following table shows, 71% of public school parents are confident that enforcing the ban on alcohol sales to minors would be very effective (and an additional 12% believe that it would be fairly effective). They also see banning alcohol advertisements in youth-accessible areas (45% very effective, 17% fairly effective) and raising taxes on alcohol (43% very effective, 16% fairly effective) as viable approaches to the problem of alcohol abuse.

ATTITUDES TOWARD TREATMENT

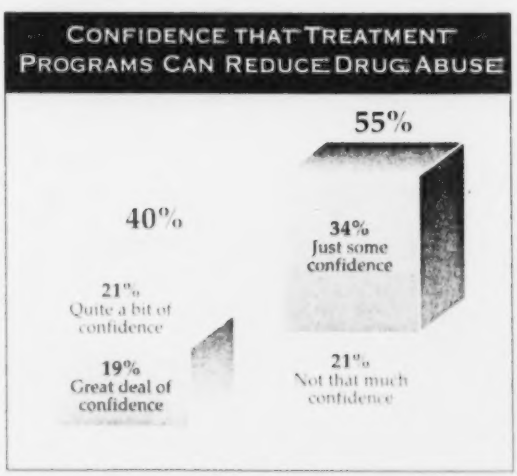
A majority of adults believe that illegal drug use should be treated as a public health problem rather than as a criminal issue. Few residents, however, know if drug treatment programs are readily available in the District, and despite this preference for putting drug users in medical treatment programs, there is no consensus about the efficacy of such programs. Fully six in ten adults believe that drug users should be treated medically as any other person with a physical or emotional problem—compared to fewer than one in three (28%) who believe that users should be arrested and prosecuted. There is a strong and clear belief that some action must be taken with these individuals, as only 7% say that drug users should be left alone unless they are bothering someone. The strongest proponents of medical treatment for drug users are women—especially women at home—seniors, and public school parents. Yet, even though men and younger adults are among the most supportive of arrest and prosecution, majorities of these and most other subgroups favor medical treatment.



Awareness of drug treatment options in the District is fairly low—27% of adults are unsure of the accessibility of treatment and among those who have an opinion, the majority tend to think that treatment programs are either fairly difficult to find or not readily available. Only about one-third (34%) of adults describe treatment as readily or fairly available, while 39% believe that it is fairly difficult to find or not readily available. Adults most confident that treatment is available are some of those whose lives have been affected the most by the problem of drugs, as discussed above—including African-Americans, especially men, and residents in the largely African-American areas of Southeast and wards 4, 5, and 7. Yet, fully 42% of residents who say they know a drug user are not that confident that treatment is available in DC, and another one in five are simply not sure if it is.

Despite strong support for the drug treatment option, a majority of residents are not convinced that drug abuse can be reduced through treatment: 40% have a great deal or quite a bit of confidence in it, while 55% have just somewhat or not that much confidence. In fact, at least a plurality of every subgroup express just somewhat or not that much confidence in treatment. On the other hand, women—especially working women—African-Americans, and people who receive aid now or have done so in the past are the most trusting of the effectiveness of treatment.

Notwithstanding misgivings about the effectiveness of the treatment approach, adults clearly favor it over the criminal justice option and are willing to give treatment a chance to work. Even half of adults who have just somewhat or not that much confidence in treatment as a way to reduce drug abuse believe that drug users should be treated medically, while just 36% of them favor arresting and prosecuting them. (Or to view it another way, among residents who favor the arrest and prosecution of drug users, 70% have a low level of confidence in the effectiveness of treatment; even among adults who believe that users should be treated medically, nearly half (46%) have the same low level of confidence.)



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FUNDING THE ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS IN THE DISTRICT

There is a clear consensus among District residents that the amount of funds currently spent on reducing the drug problem in DC is insufficient, but many residents are reluctant to directly bear the consequences of increasing the amount of revenue needed for this effort. More than three in five residents (63%) believe that anti-drug abuse efforts in DC are being short-changed with inadequate funding, while just 17% believe that the total amount of funds currently spent is satisfactory. Another one in five adults (20%) are simply not sure if the funds currently spent on this effort are adequate or not.

FEELINGS ABOUT INCREASING FUNDING TO REDUCE DRUG ABUSE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

	% All Adults
Amount of Funds Is Adequate	**17**
Amount of Funds Is Not Adequate/Not Sure	**83**
Willing to pay higher taxes	16
Not willing to pay higher taxes, but support shifting funding from other programs	30
Only support increasing funding if do not have to pay taxes and funding for other city programs is not cut	29
None/other (VOL)	4
Not sure	4

Nonetheless, when it comes to putting their money where their mouth is, most District residents fall short: just 16% of adults say that they would be willing to pay higher taxes in order to increase funding to deal with the city's drug problem. Given residents' concern about drugs and the fact that most people do not feel that enough money is currently being spent to combat drugs, this figure seems rather low. Americans, however, are always wary of raising taxes, no matter what the reason. Furthermore, despite a lack of support for raising taxes to fund the war on drugs in DC, residents are more open to the option of shifting funding from other DC programs, rather than paying higher taxes (30%).

Willingness to pay higher taxes decreases as income declines, so that members of lower-income households are the most likely to support increasing anti-drug dollars *only if it means no increase in taxes and no shifting of funds from other city programs.*

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WASHINGTON, DC SURVEY INSTRUMENT

PETER D. HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC
1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 801 respondents
Dates: June 8-10, 1998

47% Male
53% Female

1. First, does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, or an advertising agency?

No	100	**CONTINUE**
Yes	-	**TERMINATE**
Not sure	-	

2a. How satisfied are you with the way things are going in the District of Columbia these days—are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, just somewhat satisfied, or not really satisfied?

Very satisfied	5
Fairly satisfied	20
Just somewhat satisfied	30
Not really satisfied	41
Not sure	4

2b. Compared to five years ago, would you say that the District is a better place to live, a worse place to live, or is it about the same?

Better place to live	26
Worse place to live	20
About the same	43
Depends (VOL)	2
Did not live in DC five years ago (VOL)	7
Not sure	2

2c. Looking ahead to five years from now, do you think that you will still live in the District of Columbia, do you plan on moving to the Maryland or Virginia suburbs of DC, or do you plan on moving out of the region altogether?

Will still live in DC	59
Plan on moving to Maryland or Virginia suburbs	15
Plan on moving out of the region	18
Depends (VOL)	3
Not sure	5

3a. Now, I would like you to think about the image of the District of Columbia here and across the country. In general, do you think that the District's image is very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Very positive	5
Somewhat positive	28
Somewhat negative	34
Very negative	27
Neutral (VOL)	3
Not sure	3

3b. When you think about the future of the District of Columbia, are you very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic?

Very optimistic	23
Somewhat optimistic	52
Somewhat pessimistic	13
Very pessimistic	8
Not sure	4

4a. What would you say are the most important issues in the District of Columbia that you personally would like to see something done about?

(WAIT FOR INITIAL RESPONSE, THEN PROBE:)
Are there any other issues or problems that you personally would like to see addressed?

Education, better schools, reform school system	30%
Crime, violence, lack of safety	26%
Clean the city, fix the roads, potholes	18%
Drugs	11%
Better services, trash collection, improve on basic city services	9%
Don't know; no response	3%

4b. Let me read you a list of priorities for Washington, DC, and ask which one or two of these you think are the most important. **(MULTIPLE RESPONSE.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Improving public schools	42
Reducing crime	28
Reducing poverty and unemployment	18
Improving basic city services, such as road maintenance and trash collection	18
Reducing drug abuse	18
Returning power to local elected officials	14
Lowering taxes	8
All (VOL)	15

5a. How involved are you in local and community affairs in your neighborhood—very involved, fairly involved, only somewhat involved, or not very involved?

Very involved	13
Fairly involved	14
Only somewhat involved	33
Not very involved	40

5b. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood—very safe, fairly safe, only somewhat safe, or not safe at all?

Very safe	36
Fairly safe	32
Only somewhat safe	23
Not safe at all	9

6a. Let me read you a list of some issues that may or may not be facing your neighborhood. For each one, please tell me how much of a problem you believe it is for your neighborhood—an extremely serious problem, quite serious, not that serious, or not a problem.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY OR QUITE A SERIOUS PROBLEM

	Extremely Serious Problem	Quite a Serious Problem	Not That Serious of a Problem	Not a Problem	Not Sure
Drug dealing	32	18	22	24	4
Drug abuse among youth	29	21	21	22	7
The availability of guns	28	14	20	25	13
Alcohol abuse	20	19	27	27	7
Violent crimes, such as assault and homicide	19	17	33	28	3
Underage drinking	19	17	24	28	12
Domestic violence	10	12	30	33	15

6b. If one of these problems could be successfully addressed, reducing which one do you think would be the most effective in improving the overall situation in the District of Columbia?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE

	Q.6b Most Effective		Q.6b First and Second Most Effective
Drug dealing	28		46
The availability of guns	17		36
Drug abuse among youth	17		33
Violent crimes, such as assault and homicide	16		31
Domestic violence	2		6
Alcohol abuse	2	CONTINUE	9
Underage drinking	2		4
All (VOL)	13		NA
None (VOL)	2	Skip to Q.7	NA
Not sure	1		NA

6c. If a second one of these problems could be successfully addressed, reducing which one do you think would be the second most effective in improving the overall situation in the District of Columbia?

Now I would like to focus on the issue of illegal drugs.

7. Have problems caused by drug sellers and users in your neighborhood changed the way you or your family live?

Yes, have changed	36
No, have not changed	62
Not sure	2

8a. Now, let me read you a list of things that might concern you about illegal drugs. Please tell me which one of these is your biggest concern.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE BIGGEST CONCERN

	Q.8a Biggest Concern		Q.8b First and Second Biggest Concern
Drug related crime	26		42
Family breakdown due to drug abuse	15		29
Child abuse and neglect	15		32
Increased drug use among youth	12		25
Lack of available treatment for drug users	10	**CONTINUE**	20
The spread of AIDS through contaminated needles	5		14
All of them (VOL)	14		NA
None of them (VOL)	-	**Skip to Q.9**	NA
Not sure	3		NA

8b. And which one of these is your second biggest concern.

9. Have you ever seen or heard about drugs being sold in your neighborhood?

Yes, have seen/heard about drugs being sold in neighborhood	55
No, have not seen/heard about drugs being sold in neighborhood	44
Not sure	1

10. Which of the following statements best reflects your views on how to handle people who use illegal drugs?

They should be arrested and prosecuted	28
They should be treated medically, like any other person with a physical or emotional problem	60
They should be left alone unless they are bothering someone	7
None/other (VOL)	2
Not sure	3

11a. Based on what you know, how available are drug treatment programs in the District of Columbia—readily available, fairly available, fairly difficult to find, or not really available in your neighborhood?

Readily available	11
Fairly available	23
Fairly difficult to find	21
Not readily available	18
Not sure	27

11b. And in general, how much confidence do you have that drug abuse can be reduced through treatment programs for drug users—a great deal of confidence, quite a bit, just some, or not that much confidence?

Great deal of confidence	19
Quite a bit of confidence	21
Just some confidence	34
Not that much confidence	21
Not sure	5

12. Which one of the following approaches do you favor more to help reduce the drug problem here in the District:
A) devoting more attention and funds to law enforcement, including arrest, prosecution, and sentencing, or
B) devoting more attention and funds to drug education, prevention, and treatment?

Devoting more attention and funds to law enforcement	19
Devoting more attention and funds to education, prevention, and treatment	68
Both equally (VOL)	11
Not sure	2

13a. In general, do you think that the total amount of funds currently spent on efforts to reduce drug abuse here in the District of Columbia is adequate or not?

Amount of funds is adequate	17	**Skip to Q.14**
Amount of funds is not adequate	63	**CONTINUE**
Not sure	20	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT SAY ADEQUATE IN Q.13a)

13b. Which of the following statements best describes your point of view about how to increase the amount of funds avail able to reduce drug abuse in the District?

I would be willing to pay higher taxes in order to increase funding to deal with the drug problem	16
I would NOT be willing to pay higher taxes, but I would support shifting funding from other DC programs to deal with the drug problem	30
I would only support increasing funding to deal with the drug problem if I did not have to pay higher taxes and funding for other city programs would not be cut	29
None/other (VOL)	4
Not sure	4
Amount Of Funds Is Adequate (Q.13a)	17

14. If the government of the District of Columbia were to devote more funds to one of the following approaches to reducing illegal drug abuse and its related problems, which one would you choose?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Expanding job training services	40
Expanding drug treatment programs	30
Improving recreation facilities and programs	19
Building and staffing more jails	6
None/other (VOL)	3
Not sure	2

15. Now I am going to read you some new approaches that have been proposed to help curb drug abuse and related problems. For each one, please tell me how effective you think it would be in reducing drug problems in the District of Columbia—very effective, fairly effective, only somewhat effective, or not that effective.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY EFFECTIVE

	Very Effective	Quite a Fairly Effective	Only Somewhat Effective	Not That Effective	Not Sure
Expanding after-school and summer recreation programs for youth	65	17	11	6	1
Adopting "community policing" programs that assign police officers to local neighborhoods to work with residents to prevent crime	61	18	13	6	2
Expanding publicly funded drug treatment capacity to ensure that all people who are arrested and test positive for drugs will immediately enter court-supervised treatment programs	49	19	20	9	3
Educating landlords in publicly assisted housing on how to prevent drug dealing on their property	43	17	18	18	4
Requiring mandatory minimum prison sentences for the possession and sale of illegal drugs	34	13	22	28	3

16. Now I am going to read you some new approaches that have been proposed to help curb alcohol abuse and related problems. For each one, please tell me how effective you think it would be in reducing alcohol problems in the District of Columbia—very effective, fairly effective, only somewhat effective, or not that effective.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY EFFECTIVE

	Very Effective	Fairly Effective	Only Somewhat Effective	Not That Effective	Not Sure
Strengthening enforcement against alcohol sales to minors	55	15	17	11	2
Banning advertisements for alcohol products in areas accessible to youth	34	15	19	29	3
Raising the alcohol excise tax to discourage underage drinking and enhance funding for substance abuse treatment programs	34	14	19	30	3
Lowering the legal blood alcohol concentration limit for driving a motor vehicle from point-one to point-oh-eight	30	13	16	36	5

17. Do you personally know someone living in the District, such as a relative, close friend, neighbor, or someone at work, who **(READ ITEM)**?

	Yes Know Someone	No Do Not Know Someone	Refused	Not Sure
Regularly uses illegal drugs	35	63	1	1
Has an alcohol problem	49	50	-	1

18a. Do you have any children who live at home with you?

Yes, have children at home	35	**CONTINUE**
No, do not have children at home	65	**Skip to Q.19**

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN AT HOME IN Q.18a)

18b. How old are the children? **(IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO GIVE AGES, ASK:)** Are the children under age six, age six to eleven, age twelve to fifteen, age sixteen to eighteen, or over age eighteen? **(MULTIPLE RESPONSE.)**

Under age 6	29	
Age 6 to 11	34	
Age 12 to 15	20	**CONTINUE**
Age 16 to 18	15	
Over age 18	27	**Skip to Q.19**
Not sure	1	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHILD AGE 18 OR UNDER AT HOME IN Q.18b)

18c. If you have more than one child, let's just talk about your oldest child age 18 or under. Does your oldest child age 18 or under attend public school or private school?

Attends public school	61
Attends private school	19
Does not attend school/too young (VOL)	20

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHILD AGE 18 OR UNDER AT HOME IN Q.18b)

18d. Have you or another adult in your family talked with your oldest child age 18 or under about the risks of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use?

Yes, have talked with child	77
No, have not talked with child	21
Not sure	2

19. Which one of the following approaches do you think would be the most effective way to reduce drug use among school-age youth?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Incorporate drug prevention education into the regular curriculum as part of personal health classes	39
Expand after-school programs for school-age youth	25
Increase police presence in and around schools	17
Increase in-school drug prevention training for teachers and staff	11
None/other (VOL)	4
Not sure	4

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1. How old are you? (**IF REFUSED, ASK**) Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24	11
25-29	10
30-34	8
35-39	10
40-44	10
45-49	8
50-54	8
55-59	6
60-64	9
65 and over	19
Refused	1

F2a. What type of work does the head of the household usually do? What is the job called?

High-level professional	11
Middle-level professional	12
Executive, manager	7
Sales, proprietor	3
White collar worker	14
Skilled laborer	13
Semi-, unskilled laborer	1
Farmer, rancher	-
Homemaker	1
Retiree	27
Student	2
Unemployed, looking for work	3
Other	2
Not sure	4

F2b. Can you tell me whether you are a public employee—that is, are you employed by federal, state, or local government, a public school system, or some other governmental agency?

Yes, public employee	23
No, not a public employee	74
Not sure	3

(ASK ONLY OF WOMEN.)

F3. Do you work outside the home?

Yes, work outside the home	30
No, do not work outside the home	23

F4. How would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

Mostly Democratic	56
Leaning Democratic	11
Completely independent	15
Leaning Republican	4
Mostly Republican	7
Not sure	7

F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal	34
Moderate	34
Conservative	25
Not sure	7

F6. What is the last grade you completed in school?

Grade school	1
Some high school	8
High school graduate	26
Some college, no degree	15
Vocational training/2-year college	8
4-year college/bachelor's degree	17
Some postgraduate work, no degree	3
2-3 years postgraduate work/ master's degree	14
Doctoral/law degree	6
Not sure/refused	2

F7. What is your marital status—are you single and never married, married, living with a partner, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Single	40
Married	31
Living with a partner	4
Separated	3
Divorced	12
Widowed	9
Not sure	1

F8. Do you have any **(READ ITEM)** living in your household at this time?

	Yes, Live in Household	No, Do Not Live in Household	Not Sure
Grandchildren	7	92	1
Parents or other adult relatives	18	81	1

F9a. Have you lived in Washington, DC your entire life? **(IF "NO," ASK:)** For how many years have you lived in Washington, DC?

Entire life	33
3 years or less	11
4 to 6 years	5
7 to 9 years	5
10 to 14 years	5
15 to 19 years	5
20 to 30 years	14
More than 30 years	21
Not sure/refused	1

F9b. Do you own or rent housing in Washington, DC?

Own	47
Rent	50
Other (VOL)	1
Not sure	2

F10. Are you registered to vote at this address?

Yes, registered to vote	80
No, not registered to vote	19
Not sure	1

F11. Are you presently covered or not covered by health insurance? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** And are you covered through an employer or through the government?

Yes, covered through employer	51
Yes, covered through the government	26
Some of both (VOL)	3
Yes, other coverage (VOL)	9
No, not covered	9
Not sure	2

F12. For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me whether your total household income for last year was above $35,000 or below $35,000.

(IF ABOVE $35,000, ASK:) Would you say your household income was above $50,000 or below $50,000?

(IF BELOW $35,000, ASK:) Would you say your household income was above $20,000 or below $20,000?

Above $50,000	28
$35,000-$50,000	19
$20,000-$35,000	24
Below $20,000	14
Not sure/refused	15

F13. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? **(IF NO:)** What is your race — white, black, Asian, or something else?

Hispanic	4
White	27
Black	65
Asian	1
Other	2
Not sure/refused	1

F14. Do you happen to receive food stamps, TANF, the Earned Income Tax Credit, or other benefits for low-income people, or have you in the past?

Currently receive aid	9
Received aid in the past	7
Have not received aid	79
Not sure/refused	5

NATIONAL SURVEY INSTRUMENT

PETER D. HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC
1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1002 adults
Dates: July 7-12, 1998

49% Male
51% Female

1. I'd like to ask your opinion of some selected cities in the United States. For each city, I would like you to tell me whether your impression of that city is very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT POSITIVE

	Very Positive	Positive	13	Very Negative	Neutral (VOL)	Not Sure
		36	24			
Houston	14	31	25	6	13	18
New York City	13	31		15	9	8
Washington, DC	10	Somewhat		19	9	6
	Somewhat	Negative				

2. When you think about the future of each of these cities, are you very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT POSITIVE

	Very Optimistic	Optimistic	12	Very Pessimistic	Neutral (VOL)	Not Sure
		38	20			
Houston	17	35	24	5	10	18
New York City	17	33		10	8	10
Washington, DC	12	Somewhat		15	7	9
	Somewhat	Pessimistic				

3. Compared to five years ago, would you say that the image of Washington, DC, has gotten better, has gotten worse, or would you say that Washington, DC's image is about the same today as it was five years ago?

Has gotten better	15
Has gotten worse	39
About the same	38
Not sure	8

4. Suppose you were presented with an attractive job offer in Washington, DC, but if you took this job you would have to live within the city limits of Washington, DC. If you received such a job offer, would you definitely consider taking the job and moving to Washington, DC, maybe consider it, probably not consider it, or definitely not consider it?

Definitely consider it	13
Maybe consider it	29
Probably not consider it	49
Definitely not consider it	3
Does not apply/do not work (VOL)	6

5. Which one of the following issues or problems do you think hurts Washington, DC's image the most?
THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Drug abuse and drug-related crime	18
Poor local government and leadership	18
Crime and safety problems	17
Racial issues and tensions	7
Transportation and traffic problems	2
All (VOL)	30
None (VOL)	1
Not sure	7

6. Now I would like you to think about how much of a problem drug abuse is in Washington, DC, compared to in other major cities? Do you think that drug abuse in Washington, DC, is an extremely serious problem, quite a serious problem, not that serious of a problem, or not a problem?

An extremely serious problem	32
Quite a serious problem	39
Not that serious of a problem	8
Not a problem	1
Neutral (VOL)	6
Not sure	14

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1a. What is the last grade you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ CHOICES).**

Grade school	4
Some high school	12
High school graduate	34
Some college, no degree	18
Vocational training/2-year college	7
4-year college/bachelor's degree	16
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree	5
Doctoral/law degree	1
Not sure/refused	1

F1b. In what age group are you — **(READ LIST)?**

18-24	12
25-29	10
30-34	10
35-39	10
40-44	12
45-49	9
50-54	8
55-59	6
60-64	5
65 and over	17
Refused	1

F2. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

Democrat	34
Republican	28
Independent	28
Other	7
Refused	1
Don't know/nothing/not sure	2

F3. For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me whether your total household income for last year was above $40,000 or below $40,000.

(IF ABOVE $40,000) Would you say your household income was above $75,000 or below $75,000?

(IF BELOW $40,000) Would you say your household income was above $25,000 or below $25,000?

Above $75,000	10
$40,000-$75,000	31
$25,000-$40,000	29
Below $25,000	14
Not sure/refused	16

F4. Are you white, African American, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

White	73
African American	12
Hispanic	7
Asian	2
Other	4
Not sure/refused	2

Drug Strategies promotes more effective approaches to the nation's drug problems and supports private and public initiatives that reduce the demand for drugs through prevention, education, treatment and law enforcement.

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